

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

October 12, 2010

Mr. Carcieri called the Executive Session to order at 6:30PM. School Committee members present: Luisa Abatecola, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, and Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Lonnie Barham, Chief Operating Officer, and Sara Rapport, Esq.

A motion was made by Mr. Santos to convene in executive session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-26-5(a)(2), to discuss: Teachers' Contract, Teachers' Assistants Contract, Secretaries Contract, Custodians' Contract; Principals' Contract Litigation 2008-2010, including Lopes v. EPSC, EPSC v. First Student, EPSC v. EPEA & related matters, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Roll Call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye (Shannon Barbosa arrived after opening.

Call to Order Public Session – 7:30PM

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & a Moment of Silence, in honor of Donna Mears, were observed.

Report Executive Session Votes - None

Public Comment I

Mary Teixeira was not sure why budget revisions were presented twice, since the School Committee knew what money they had, but then had second thoughts. She felt that the matter of fairness should be the basis for all decisions made; the unilateral implementation was not for the whole department and insurance was taken away (spouse coverage), administrators still have buyback, and most importantly, there are two schools who do not have the same technical resources as the others and the fact that they are not Title I schools is not a good reason.

Dr. Cirillo explained that it is part of the School Committee's obligation to appear before the City Council regarding the budget and to revise the budget under necessity at a School Committee meeting.

Mr. Faria said that technology and full day Kindergarten in Title I schools has always been an issue and it has been the goal of this School Committee to change that. Dr. Cirillo explained that Title I is based on the poverty rate of the school and those funds cannot be supplanted. He hoped to be able to add full day Kindergarten and to increase the level of technology. Title I is a restricted grant and can only be used for those purposes.

Mr. George Lima, Chair of the Education Committee, Minority Caucus, spoke about an article in the news which he felt was disparaging a principal, Dr. Nadine Lima, in the remarks it contained about her. He feels that she is an educated role model, who works to improves others; he asked that the School Committee to reaffirm the fact that she is perfect for the position she now holds. He also mentioned that the Affirmative Action Committee has not been meeting; he hopes to make a presentation to them regarding their role in East Providence.

Mr. Carcieri reaffirmed the appointment of Dr. Lima as Principal of Whiteknact School. Mr. Faria commented that everything seems to be going well at that school. Mrs. Barbosa stated that her comments at a prior meeting were not based on race or color; as a public official and a parent first, she has the right to state her opinion. She apologized if her comments offended anyone.

Reports

Student Liaison – Andrew Butler presented a report.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cirillo presented October total enrollment number at 5624: elementary 2523, secondary 3101; (middle schools are at 607 for Martin Middle School and 584 at Riverside Middle) with class sizes across the district in the low twenties.

Bond Referendum – Dr. Cirillo explained that a parent group has been campaigning to assist in educating voters regarding the school construction bond. Missy Andrade and Patti Streit are part of a grass roots approach to providing information and answering questions about this very important ballot item, which the voters of East Providence are being asked to approve to provide funds for some very serious facilities repairs and fire code updates in schools.

Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence

RETIREMENT

**Mary Beth Kelleher Secretary – Martin Middle School Library
effective 12/17/2010**

PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Jacqueline Rose Supervisory Assistant – Oldham Elementary
School - Effective 10/15/2010 – End of School Year**

PARENTAL LEAVE

**Lori Rush Speech Pathologist - Meadowcrest Early Learning
Center**

Approximately 11/16/2010

**Michaela Gallogly Grade 3 Teacher - Kent Heights Elementary
School**

Approximately 01/03/2011

Marissa Moran Mathematics Teacher – East Providence High School

Approximately 12/11/2010

Carla Midgley Special Education Teacher - Hennessey

Approximately 11/04/2010

Financial Report – Mary King, Finance Director, reported that expenditures are presently at 89.12% and revenues at 82.01%; it is expected that the fiscal year will end without a deficit; we are still waiting on sale of the Grove Avenue building which might be in early November.

Consent Agenda

Personnel Appointments/Recalls

APPOINTMENTS

Jessica Pacheco Lifeskills Teacher - Riverside Middle School Effective 10/04/2010

Pam Watson Head Teacher – Oldham Elementary School

Mary Gallagher Just Say No Advisor – Oldham Elementary School

Christie Sullivan Testing Coordinator – Riverside Middle School

Joanne Sabato 3/5 Speech/Language Pathologist – Whiteknact Effective 10/07/10

Karen Conte Math ADDVantage Lead Teacher – Kent Heights Elementary School

Andrea Sprout Math ADDVantage Lead Teacher - Waddington Elementary School

Lauren Salzillo Math ADDVantage Lead Teacher – Orlo Elementary School

Linda Murphy Math ADDVantage Lead Teacher – Oldham Elementary School

Nicole Monte Math ADDVantage Lead Teacher – Hennessey Elementary School

RECALL

Kelly Love 2/5 English Teacher – East Providence High School Effective 09/28/2010

Anabela Olsen 2/5 Spanish Teacher – East Providence High School Effective 10/12/2010

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Requisitions – Bill Lists

Warrant #1021 10/4/10 \$ 122,698.72

Warrant #1022 10/8/10 \$ 3,514,267.30

Warrant #1025 10/7/10 \$ 24,398.84

Warrant #1026 10/7/10 \$ 323,539.09

Warrant #1027 10/7/10 \$ 1,224,605.84

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

Action Items

Budget Revision – Mary King presented a Power Point summary of revisions to the FY 2011 budget, precipitated by a cut of \$1M from the city budget passed on October 5, 2010. Discussion followed. Ms. King stated that the bigger concern is FY 2012 with pension alone at a \$1 million increase.

Mary King will send the revision of the completed budget package to the School Committee.

Mr. Faria asked to remove School Committee stipends from the budget. Discussion took place. He was advised by the School Department attorney that the School Committee could not vote on the

issue at this time.

Motion to approve the budget revision by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Resolution to Pursue Bond Passage – Mr. Santos pointed out that the school’s infrastructure is deteriorating on a daily basis and with decreases in state aid, etc. repairs cannot be funded through the operating budget. Mr. Santos moved that the School Committee express its full support for passage of the school repairs bond referendum; that the School Committee implore other political bodies, individual politicians, and civic, social and professional organizations to also express their full support for passage of the bond referendum; and that the School Committee direct the Superintendent of Schools and his staff to take all reasonable actions to aggressively promote passage of this referendum, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Requests for Home Schooling – A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II - None

Announcements – Mr. Faria reported that Kent Heights and Francis Schools received the “Safe Routes to School Grant.” Also, he received a letter requesting that the School Committee send a letter

of support to the City Council requesting that the press box at Pierce Memorial Field be named for Mr. William Stringfellow, a teacher, football coach and athletic director in East Providence. He requested that this item be placed on the next agenda for approval.

A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee